

July 2010

## Georgia Library Quarterly, Summer 2010

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GEORGIA LIBRARY QUARTERLY



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## In This ISSUE

# GLO

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## On the COVER

*Children's services librarian Vicki Sellers picks one of her favorite books from the collection at the Sequoyah Regional Library's R.T. Jones Memorial Library in Canton. Judges for the inaugural Georgia Libraries Photo Contest selected this entry as honorable mention in the "best photo of a librarian" category. Georgia's annual Summer Reading Program began in May and continues through August. This year's theme for children is "Make a Splash – READ." For teens, the 2010 theme is "Make Waves ... @ your library." (Photo by Chuck Anderson)*





## From the PRESIDENT

Greetings to my favorite Georgia Library Association members! Over the summer, our minds have been engaged with webinars by multi-talented, cutting-edge Georgia librarians to educate and inspire us, and the summer reading programs with all their energy and creativity have come to a close. A new school year has begun, and we are looking forward to renewing connections to each other. And what better place to do that than at COMO XXII in Athens, Oct. 13-15!

GLA, the Georgia Library Media Association and the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology are proud of their collaboration as the Georgia Council of Media Organizations to bring all types of Georgia library people together at our annual state library/media conference. Whether we work within libraries or work outside in support of libraries, we'll come together to "Celebrate With One Voice!"

Opening night of the conference will be different than what you have experienced. Come to "Library Movie Night"! The library documentary "The Hollywood Librarian" will be shown, and then a second fun library-themed movie (to be announced) will conclude the double feature. There will be prizes and movie munchies. So, come into Athens and get settled in your hotel and then head on over to the Classic Center for an evening of fun, networking and entertainment. Thursday and Friday will offer a

myriad of programs as well as plenty of time to visit the exhibits. Michael Porter, aka "Libraryman," will be our keynote speaker on Thursday. Michael is a librarian, presenter, author, practical technology fan and PEZ collector. He has 20 years of experience working in Libraryland and has presented hundreds of times to library staff around the world. In 2009 he was selected as a *Library Journal* "Mover & Shaker" and in 2010 was elected to the American Library Association's governing Council board. He currently works at WebJunction.org in Seattle as communications manager. Find out more at [www.libraryman.com](http://www.libraryman.com).

Later that evening, ALA President Roberta Stevens will be speaking at our Awards Banquet. It is sure to be a special night with the recognition of special folks, the induction of officers for 2011 and special entertainment. The conference will end Friday with the GLA Scholarship Raffle.

Speaking of conferences, we welcome to Georgia the Online

Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC) Biennial Conference to be held in Macon Oct. 15-17. So, catalogers, after COMO, head on down to OLAC. In honor of ALA's proclamation of 2010 as the "Year of Cataloging Research" and hosting OLAC in Georgia, the GLA board has proclaimed the week of Oct. 11-17 "Georgia Library Cataloging Appreciation Week"! So, give a cataloger a hug this week.

Congratulations to Jeff Heck, GLA's secretary, who is now also associate editor of *GLQ*. We are so very proud of our association's journal. Thanks to all who serve on the editorial board and to the contributors who keep us aware of the best practices in Georgia libraries. Speaking of being connected, remember to visit our Web site and Facebook page for the latest happenings of GLA. I look forward to seeing you at COMO XXII. Start saving for your Scholarship Raffle tickets! ►►

— Carol Stanley

President

Georgia Library Association

## Unshelved

by Bill Barnes & Gene Ambaum



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Front row, from left:  
Lora Mirza, Susan Cooley  
and Jeff Heck. Back row,  
from left: David Baker,  
Sarah Steiner, Karen  
Odom, Julie Walker and  
Laura Burtle. Not  
pictured: Brijin Boddy  
and Ann Vidor.



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# Georgia librarians bring hope to impoverished in Africa

by Laura Burtle, Ann Hamilton and Joan Taylor

## The West African Theological Seminary Lagos, Nigeria

*An account by Joan Taylor  
Public Services Librarian  
Clayton State University*

In November, 2009, I participated in a journey to Nigeria to volunteer in a library. I first heard about the trip in the fall of 2007, when I received an inquiry from a friend about my interest in traveling with her and her husband to a seminary in Lagos, Nigeria. With our church's sponsorship, we began planning, scheduling and coordinating the trip to the West African Theological Seminary (WATS). WATS was founded in 1989 in the Eastern region of Nigeria and relocated to its current property in Apaja Lagos in 2006.

Our team consisted of eight people: three teachers, a former health services administrator, a former technology network supervisor, a nurse, a librarian and a retired government employee. We boarded a crowded nonstop flight from Atlanta to Lagos, and after an 11-hour overnight flight, we arrived in

Nigeria. We were met by a driver and an assistant from WATS. They escorted us from the airport, and we embarked on one of the wildest, most chaotic two-and-a-half-hour rides that I have ever experienced. On the ride, we had to weave around potholes, taxis, motor scooters, pedestrians and street-corner salespeople with wares ranging from pineapples to razors. Somehow we arrived safely at the compound guesthouse located a short walk from the seminary grounds.

The next morning, the seminary's founder, Dr. Gary Maxey, took us on a tour of the seminary grounds. In addition to volunteering in the library, we had opportunities to assist with wall preparation and painting, with campus technology networking and with local patients at a seminary-run health clinic.

On Monday I was introduced to the WATS head librarian, Mrs. Elizabeth (Lizzie) Nwozuzu, along with the rest of the staff. We met to discuss the various needs of the library and ideas of how I could be of assistance. Two projects were considered the most needed: filing and revision of catalog cards, and addressing the

tremendous backlog of books that needed to be cataloged. These books were donations from various places around the world.

The WATS administrators and librarians hope to transfer the library's holdings from their existing card catalog into an online catalog, and given that goal, I didn't feel that correcting and filing catalog cards would be the best use of time. Besides, I confess that I forgot most of the nuances and details of catalog card filing quite a long time ago. We agreed that cataloging and processing books would be a better way to help with the growth of the collection.

There were times when the other members of our team would stop by the library to rest from restoring or painting outdoors in the intense heat. In the library, we had the use of a large electric fan — when the power was working! "Rest" for them actually meant that I gave them a "crash course" in selecting the correct information to be recorded on the forms.

I mentioned to Dr. Maxey that if I could have access to a computer with  
**See Nigeria, page 6**

## Citizen Ambassadorship on Behalf of Libraries

*Various locations, South Africa*

*An account by Ann Hamilton  
Associate Dean of the Library  
Georgia Southern University*

Last year I was invited by People to People to join a group of librarians from all over the United States and two other countries to serve as an ambassador to South Africa on behalf of libraries. People to People was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. As stated on the People to People Web site (<http://www.peopletopeople.com/AboutUs/Pages/OurHeritage.aspx>): "Eisenhower was acting on his firm belief that direct interaction between ordinary citizens around the world can promote cultural understanding and world peace." People to People offers a wide variety of programs, but the one in which I was involved was under the professional category of education.

Former American Library Association (ALA) President John W. Berry was the leader of the group that included academic, public, school and retired librarians. One academic librarian was from British Columbia and another

was from Kuwait. The group left Washington, D.C., on Oct. 19, flew to Johannesburg, South Africa, and arrived the following day. The program began with an orientation and cultural briefing from our official tour guide and a presentation by the treasurer of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) – the ALA of South Africa. That afternoon we began an intensive few days visiting public and academic libraries in Soweto, Pretoria and Johannesburg. During most visits there were presentations by the librarians we were visiting, and in some cases there were presentations by members of our group.

One-to-one sharing opportunities with our South African colleagues were usually available during meals, receptions and breaks. One of the most interesting library visits was not on our original itinerary. We met the head of the National Library of South Africa at a reception for American and South African librarians, and he invited us to visit his library the next day. That beautiful new facility in Pretoria was truly state of the art and a facility of which South Africa can be proud.

After spending two and a half days in Johannesburg and Pretoria, we flew to Cape Town. During the weekend, we took a break from visiting libraries to travel down to the

*See South Africa, page 7*

## The International University of Grand-Bassam

*Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire*

*An account by Laura Burtle  
Associate University Librarian  
Georgia State University Library*

Since 1988, Georgia State University has worked with the Agency for Education and Development in Cote d'Ivoire to establish and support the first English-language university in the country, based on the American system of higher education. In 2004-2005, the Côte d'Ivoire/Georgia State University partnership established the two-year curriculum of the International University of Grand-

Bassam (IUGB), and the university's first eight students started classes in January 2005.

I began meeting with representatives from IUGB in 2007 and consulted with the IUGB librarian when she visited and on an ongoing manner via e-mail.

The idea of a book drive arose during a 2008 visit by the IUGB president and his delegation. I consulted with the IUGB librarian and the registrar to learn about the scope of courses offered at IUGB. With the support of the GSU provost, I then launched a targeted book drive on campus. I requested books in certain disciplinary areas, no more than five years old. The response was

wonderful, and at the end of the drive, we sorted books into 40 boxes. Through the generosity of a donor, the books were shipped on a *slow* boat, arriving in Côte d'Ivoire six months later. The librarian at IUGB reported, "The books from the book drive arrived in January here, and we had a library celebration: haiku, clerihews, slogans, posters and contests, which culminated in a little get-together with the American ambassador and some other distinguished guests on Feb. 13." At subsequent visits by the IUGB president, I was repeatedly thanked for the books, which I later learned comprise the vast majority of the university's library.

*See Côte d'Ivoire, page 7*



### **Nigeria, from page 4**

Internet connectivity, I would be able to log in via password to Clayton State University's GALILEO available databases and use the OCLC FirstSearch product, WorldCat, to expedite searches for subject headings and basic call numbers. I was given the use of two laptops, and this helped us tremendously. I showed two of the library staff the tools that I was using and provided them with several links to the OCLC vendor's Web site for potential future subscription

and access. Since the free version of WorldCat doesn't have quite as many library record details as the subscription, it didn't help with the subjects and call numbers.

We still had some issues with the slow speed of the Internet, but it was certainly easier than entirely relying on the book tools. The library staff use three tools to help them in cataloging: Dewey Decimal Classification 20th edition, Sears Subject Headings and a very well used author Cutter booklet. Lagos has issues with utilities and consistent power availability because of the demands of such a large population and also due to local city/government power decisions. Major construction and renovation of the campus buildings and the need for

power supply to operate power tools and machinery create everyday challenges.

Most Lagos households and businesses must rely on generator power for electricity after approximately 7 o'clock in the evening, when city/government-supplied power is suspended for the day. For those of us who have never experienced a daily shut-off of utility power, this was quite an adjustment. These technological challenges on

campus mean that there must be reliable backup files and that software must not be entirely Internet-dependent to function.

I hope that funding to the seminary and technological improvement will allow for more consistent Internet availability to the campus in the future.

There have been some exciting updates to the library since I left Nigeria in November. One important recent development is the purchase and installation of the PrimaSoft software product Small Library Organizer onto WATS library staff laptop computers. This is a multiuser software package, and library staff are beginning to enter the book records using this software. The library-owned laptops are now part

of a file-sharing network. As if the WATS Library staff doesn't have enough projects, they are considering another major decision to migrate from DDC classification to LC classification. The main obstacle is having enough staff and the necessary time to enter the records. Future plans will include expanding the size of the library to the area that currently holds the chapel. The chapel will be moved when construction of its new location is completed.

Another major need is air conditioning to preserve the collection; WATS has received a grant from a major publisher of Christian literature to install air conditioning and some library shelving. The library is also looking toward moving to open source software.

This trip was very fulfilling to me on four different levels: personally, spiritually, culturally and professionally. I have met some wonderful people with whom I now have an ongoing mentoring/consulting type relationship. WATS volunteers in the Atlanta area still have book donations to review in the United States, since it is very expensive to ship large containers overseas. As each of you know, library work is continuous, and I still find it to be a truly awesome opportunity to be able to take the skills and tools of the library profession that I so enjoy and utilize them in a library 7,000 miles from home! Perhaps I will get to travel there again in a few years. ►►



**South Africa, from page 5**

Cape of Good Hope and to visit the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. Back in Cape Town, we visited one of the townships and had a number of opportunities to visit with residents in several parts of the township. We completed our library visits at the Cape Town Central Library and at Stellenbosch University. The presentations and networking with colleagues at both locations were interesting and informative.

The Central Library was particularly interesting to me because it was created by renovating a drill hall, and a local children's author had allowed illustrations from his books to be painted on the walls of the extensive children's area. The official visit ended on Oct. 28, but a number of us chose to participate in the extension program to Kruger National Park. Those three days offered unparalleled opportunities to see an amazing variety of wildlife while on photo safaris. One evening was spent in a simulated native village where the villagers presented their history through music and dance.



I would recommend the People to People program to anyone interested in international professional networking or international cultural exchange. Once you participate as an ambassador, you receive invitations to join other groups and visit other countries. You also may have some unexpected opportunities to continue the exchanges you begin during your trip. For example, when we visited the library at the University of South Africa (the world's third largest correspondence school), I talked with the librarians about building renovation projects. One of those librarians came to the United States for a conference in May, and she arranged a detour

through Atlanta to visit the renovated libraries at Georgia State, Georgia Tech and Emory.

If you are interested in more information about the People to People program, you can visit the Web site at <http://www.peopletopeople.com/Pages/default.aspx> or you're welcome to send questions to me at [ahamilton@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:ahamilton@georgiasouthern.edu). ►►

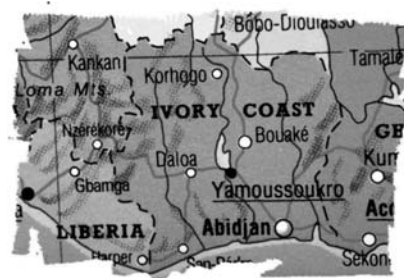
**Côte d'Ivoire, from page 5**

As part of ongoing technical assistance being provided to IUGB by GSU, I traveled with four other GSU faculty members to Cote d'Ivoire. We stayed in the commercial capital of the country, Abidjan, where IUGB maintains offices.

Over the course of a week, I visited IUGB, about an hour drive from Abidjan; attended an IUGB board meeting; visited several libraries at the University of Cocody, the public university in Abidjan; and, on one free afternoon, visited a local artists' market.

The main purpose of my visit was to prepare a report on the library, assessing its current status and providing recommendations for future development. I spent a lot of time with the librarian, Su Oteme,

and her assistant, Brice Niaba (who is very eager to go to library school), discussing both the collection and the academic support the library provides to students and faculty. It is certainly a challenge to provide the level of library support to students at IUGB that they would get in an American university, but since many IUGB students transfer to GSU, the librarian attempts to introduce them to concepts like scholarly vs. popular resources, call numbers and even open stacks. As a Francophone country, the concept of open stacks is unfamiliar to many students and faculty. The availability of free online resources, including JSTOR under their developing



countries program, is a boon to libraries. However, the unreliability of network connections and stable IP addresses is a challenge. At the main library in Cocody, even running computers to access these resources

was a problem. Computers had been donated, but the power and air-conditioning limitations made them largely unusable. As a private university not totally reliant

on state funding, IUGB faces fewer of these basic challenges.

The trip was a wonderful, exhausting experience. Challenges facing libraries in the developing world are reminders of how good things are here, even in times of budget crises! ►►

## 6010 WHITE PAPER



### Constitution Day at your library: Promoting your federal depository

by Yadira V. Payne

In 1787 our Founding Fathers composed and signed a document that has since become the foundation of our great nation. This short 4,400-word document is the U.S. Constitution and its affirmation on Sept. 17 has been celebrated and observed since that eventful day.

However, its observance did not become a federal mandate until 2005 through the enactment of Public Law 108-447, which states that "Each educational institution that receives federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution." In light of this proclamation and dissipating library budgets, it appeared that using our national treasure to promote Reese Library's federal depository collection and status was a perfect task for me to undertake as the federal depository coordinator and government documents librarian at an academic library.

First, there is an explanation of one of the major benefits of being a federal depository library, followed by a digest of a recent Constitution Day event that was planned and executed. Second, intended outcomes

developed out of the planning stages with the focus of undertaking an active role in promoting this event on the Augusta State University campus in conjunction with Reese Library. Finally, and most notably, the government documents department's Constitution Day event incurred an unexpected and revealing outcome.

#### Federal Depositories in Georgia

According to the Federal Depository Library Directory (FDLD), Reese Library is one of 23 depositories in the state of Georgia. This sum comprises law, public, college and university libraries, as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit Library. Except for our regional depository, located at the University of Georgia in Athens, these are all selective depositories.

Selective depository status indicates that we do not request, receive or subscribe to 100 percent of what the federal government publishes but a smaller percentage that we have decided better accommodates our spacing issues as well as the information needs of the stakeholders serviced by our particular libraries. It is advantageous for libraries to be included in this assemblage regardless of depository status.

#### Benefits of Being a Depository

There are many benefits for libraries to consider applying for or retaining their federal depository status. One such benefit of note in our current national economic downturn and local acquisitions budgetary constraints is that all materials – books, CDs, microfiche, maps, electronic documents and so forth – are provided at no cost to the library. The overhead incurred is minimal when the government documents materials processing is enveloped with your technical services department. As a federal depository receiving materials free from the Government Printing Office (GPO), the library is merely the caretaker and not the owner of the federal documents. This is an invaluable service to not only our faculty, staff and students but to our community users as well, who would not be able to locate these items elsewhere. According to the Subcommittee on Attrition and Retention (SOAR), another benefit of being a depository library is that it "raises the level of visibility and status of the entire library locally, regionally and nationally."

#### Promoting the Federal Depository: Event Planning

Even with the benefit of receiving

new, highly relevant and interesting items several times a week at no cost to the library, we find ourselves in an era where some libraries are opting to renounce their depository status.

As such, it has become essential to promote local depository collections and their documents personnel in creative ways. As a new documents librarian, I am full of passion and eager to promote our library's collection through a famous government document many people are familiar with and respect – the Constitution. Where to begin?

Event planning began with soliciting the advice and assistance of Reese Library's outreach librarian, the business manager, the library director, and the associate library director. As a new librarian, I needed to know the history of the library's outreach efforts in this venue as well as the government documents department's involvement. Finding that involvement had been minimal and held only in conjunction with the campuswide program, I surged ahead with my planning by immediately requesting funding for the purchase of 200 pocket-sized Constitutions to be given away. At a 70 percent discount and free shipping, my request was approved.

Reaching out to the political science department was the next step. This department hosts the annual Augusta State University's Constitution Day reading. I conveyed my plans for Reese Library's Constitution Day event to professor Flanagan, the new chair of the ASU Constitution Day Committee. He was most receptive to my plans and ideas. In communicating with the committee – which included student activities and the dean of students as well – they understood that I wanted to participate in the annual event in a way that would promote the library,

our depository and the Constitution. Phone and e-mail discussions with the committee ensued for several months as plans became concrete.

Having established a campuswide collaboration with the recognized committee, the next task was to create displays in the government documents department, the purpose of which was to offer internal promotion and marketing. Government documents student assistants were given charge of this task. The only instructions given were to be creative and have fun with the display items I purchased and provided. They created three beautiful displays. The "U.S. Constitution" display included not only a charred-edges copy of the Constitution but famous quotes and little-known facts about the Constitution as well. The "Voting and Inauguration Process" display included not only voting and inauguration process items but photos of that year's nominees and the voting date. The final display, "Major Documents in the Framing of Our Nation," included copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights as well as figurines representing every branch of the military. Campuswide e-mails were sent to the faculty and staff announcing an open invitation for viewing these displays.

As an added free marketing tool, I briefly discussed our Constitution Day event plans in a blog posting and posted photos of the displays in my photo gallery in the federal depository library community Web site for other depository coordinators to view and comment on. In a four-month period, the posting received 2,129 hits. This provided free national exposure for our depository collection and its event as well as affording other depositories a little

inspiration regarding their collections. As an added and unexpected benefit of the posting, receiving more than 2,000 hits to the post revealed that there is not only an interest in but a continued need for marketing and promotion of library government documents collections nationally.

### The Event

The day of the event coincided with the campuswide free barbecue event known as Pig Out. Normally, this is not a library-frequenting day for students. Not to be deterred, I requested that a table be set up outside of the library near the line for the free food. We were well-received. My having dressed in period costume may have added to the curiosity. My staff and student assistants decorated and manned the table full of free candy, pens, depository brochures, bookmarks, a Daniel Boone coon-skin cap and voter registration booklets. I, on the other hand, mingled with the students in line and those lingering around outside. Walking around, in full costume, I handed out pocket-sized Constitutions and had photos taken with students. Also packed in my little basket of goodies were copies of the "How a Bill Becomes Law" flyer, thus inspiring us to sing the Schoolhouse Rock song "I'm Just a Bill."

Across the breezeway, the Political Science Club set up a voter registration table. Next to our government documents table, and upon my request, the library outreach assistant set up a display regarding the voting procedure, voter registration cards and a who-to-contact directory. The information was well received. In less than three hours, everything had been taken from the table, save for the Daniel Boone cap that my student assistant wore to keep it from disappearing as well.



### After-Event Reflection: Expected and Unexpected Outcomes

Constitution Day was a glorious success for Reese Library and the government documents department. There was campuswide collaboration between departments. Teamwork within the library was promoted. Great fun was had by everyone via an educational platform complete with freebies and a costume-adorned librarian. Constitution Day was promoted to the student body in an "outside the box" environment and format for the government documents staff and student assistants. All of these plus the promotion of Reese Library's federal depository department, collection, educational offerings and status were expected outcomes.

During the after-event reflection and report preparation, unexpected outcomes were found. First, many faculty and students requested that library instruction classes be offered specific to government documents offerings and data navigation. While they were aware that Reese Library had a government documents department, they were unclear as to what exactly it offered. Having spoken with us, faculty and students were amazed that the government offered so much material that could benefit them in their studies or publications. This identified a gap in library instruction as well as

information dissemination regarding federal depositories. Due to this unexpected outcome, this year I have revised and published the "A Brief Guide to U.S. Government Documents" handout. I have also given library instruction classes specific to government documents information for several departments. Currently in progress are the revamping of the Web page, the creation of an instructional video and the creation of a government documents wiki.

Another unexpected outcome was the number of questions we received regarding the access of government documents. This let me identify that further reference assistance is needed. While they – faculty and students – may not visit the department to ask their questions, in the two and one-half hours that we were out there, we received several hundred valid and thoughtful questions. In progress, as a result of this unexpected outcome, is an internal library instruction class for everyone who covers the reference desk. A government documents refresher is needed so that the reference staff can better assist library patrons with government documents questions. Also, there is a need for me to communicate with and visit the different departments on campus, as the government documents librarian, in an effort to

identify their specific needs and their students' needs.

### Conclusion

Constitution Day was such a great success that we are currently planning future events complete with costume and freebies. As the Government Printing Office aims for a 98 percent digital publication goal, federal depositories will need to continue to meet the informational needs of their patrons as well as continue marketing and promotion efforts. Augusta State University's Reese Library's government documents department is no exception. We will continue to promote the collection in a variety of ways to include using our national treasure — the U.S. Constitution — as the point of access. Let's remember that the federal depository offers freedom of information just as the Constitution offers freedom for all. ►►

*Yadira V. Payne is a librarian in the Reese Library at Augusta State University. She is also vice president of the Central Savannah River Area Library Association.*

### Resources:

Benefits of Being a Federal Depository Library. Prepared by SOAR: Depository Library Council Subcommittee on Attrition and Retention. <[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/council/fdlp-benefits.pdf](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/council/fdlp-benefits.pdf)>. (Accessed July 22, 2008).

Constitution Day Announcement. Federal Register. <[www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-2/052405b.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-2/052405b.pdf)>. (Accessed May 26, 2008).

FDLD Profile Search. Catalog of U.S. Government Publications. <<http://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdair/FDLdir.jsp>>. (Accessed July 22, 2008).

***Have you checked out the Georgia Library Association's home page lately? Take a look at <http://gl.georgialibraries.org/> for the new library profile feature, "Georgia Library Spotlight." Every six weeks, a new library will share information about its history, facilities, programs and specialties. If you're interested in seeing your library profiled, please e-mail Sarah Steiner at [ssteiner@gsu.edu](mailto:ssteiner@gsu.edu).***

***Also, don't forget that you're all welcome to post your GLA news to our blog, which feeds into the GLA home page and our Facebook page. Visit the site at <http://glanews.blogspot.com/> Username (E-mail): [georgialibraryassociation@gmail.com](mailto:georgialibraryassociation@gmail.com) Password: Georgialibraries (Note the "g" is capped and case-sensitive.) You can also submit your news to Sarah for posting.***

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[www.georgialibraries.org/lib/gold/ggugc2010](http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/gold/ggugc2010)

# GLA announces slate of nominees for 2010 officers

## *First Vice President/President-Elect*

### **Elizabeth L. Bagley**

Elizabeth L. Bagley serves as director of library services at Agnes Scott College, where she was appointed in March 2006. She served as associate university librarian at Georgia State University and library director at both Dalton State College and South Georgia College. Prior to working in academic libraries, Liz was public services librarian at the Pine Mountain Regional Library System and branch consultant at the Okefenokee Regional Library System. She received her A.B. degree in English from Mount Holyoke College and the master's in library and information management from Emory University. She attended the Archives Institute at Emory and the "British Libraries and Librarianship" seminar at University of Oxford through UNC-Chapel Hill.



Liz is currently chair of the GLA Awards Committee. Her other professional activities in GLA include serving on the GLA executive board as secretary, 1997 and 2008; chairing the Academic Library Division; 2006, chairing the Scholarship Committee, 2005-2008; chairing the Nominating Committee, 2009; and serving as a member of the GLA Centennial Committee including creating and authoring of one of the centennial history panels. She has also reviewed books for *GLQ* and in 2008 served as a resume reviewer at COMO. Liz is a member of the American Library Association, the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and serves on the LLAMA Building and Engineering Section's Library Interiors & Furnishings Committee and has chaired ACRL's University Libraries Section's Organization and Bylaws Committee. She is the LYRASIS TextRef blog co-author and has been a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation visiting team member. At the state level she is chair of Atlanta Macon Private Academic Libraries (AMPALS) and serves on the GALILEO Steering Committee as the AMPALS representative, having been a member of the GALILEO Steering Committee since 1996 and chairing the committee in 1999-2000.

### **E. Lorene Flanders**

E. Lorene Flanders serves as professor and dean of libraries at the University of West Georgia, where she was appointed in 2005. She served as instruction librarian, associate director for instruction and reference services, and associate university librarian at Georgia College & State University from 1989 to 2005. She began her career in 1980 with Cobb County Public Library System, where she served as children's librarian. She served as young adult librarian with the Oconee Regional Library System from 1986 to 1988. She holds the A.B. from Wesleyan College, where she majored in American studies, the M.Ln. from the University of South Carolina and the M.A. in history from Georgia College.



She currently chairs the Academic Library Division of GLA, has previously chaired the GLA Awards Committee and served on the GLA Scholarship Committee. She is a member of the University System of Georgia's Regents Academic Committee on Libraries, and the Library Council of the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education. She chairs the 2010 Southern Books Competition Committee of the Southeastern Library Association and serves on SELA's Membership & Mentoring and Resolutions committees. She is a member of the Association of College & Research Libraries and the American Library Association and served on ALA's Emerging Leaders Selection Committee in 2006 and 2007. A member of the Library Leadership & Management Association, she served as the mentor for the 2006-2007 ALA/LLAMA Emerging Leader project "Millennials in the Workplace." She is a member of the Friends of Neva Lomason Library, a unit of the West Georgia Regional Library System, and the Carrollton City Schools' System Media and Technology Committee. She co-founded the Bibliographic Instruction Group of Georgia: Eastern Region (BIGGER) in 1994 and has served as bibliographer for the Georgia Historical Society since 1999, co-authoring the bibliography of Georgia history published annually in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*.

## Second Vice President

### Pat Carterette

Pat Carterette is director of continuing education at Georgia Public Library Service, a position she has held since April 2008. Before coming to Georgia, Pat worked in public libraries in Ohio including positions as library assistant, adult services librarian, branch manager and training and staff development coordinator at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library. She was also library manager of the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library in Willowick, Ohio. She earned a BME in music therapy from the University of Kansas and an MLS from Kent State University. Pat has been a member of GLA since her arrival in Georgia. She presently serves as vice chair of the Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) Interest Group and is a member of the COMO Conference Planning Committee, 2009 and 2010. She is a member of the American Library Association and the Public Library Association and is president of the ALA Learning Round Table and a member of the National Continuing Education Forum and the Ohio Library Council.



### Kim Eccles

Kim Eccles is a native of Atlanta. She received her B.A. degree in political science from Oglethorpe University and MSLS from Clark-Atlanta University. Her current position is associate director at the Monroe F. Swilley, Jr. Library of Mercer University – Atlanta. From 1998-2006 she served as the assistant director and then library director at the Atlanta Metropolitan College, and from 1991-1998, Kim worked at Kennesaw State University as electronic resources librarian and library instruction coordinator. She also worked as an intern at the Carter Presidential Center of Emory University. Kim has served on the GLA Membership and Scholarship committees and recently presented on the feasibility of using PayPal for membership recruitment to the GLA executive board. She has served extensively on various ALA committees and university committees as chair and active participant. She has served as PTA president for her children's elementary school and co-president for their middle school. She was elected to and now serves on the local school council for Grady High School.



## Secretary

### Debbie Holmes

Debbie Holmes was appointed director of library services at the College of Coastal Georgia in 2009. She served as library director at Georgia Highlands College, 1996-2009, and assistant librarian for public services at Floyd College, 1995-1996. Before moving to Georgia in 1995, Debbie worked as a department head at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, 1992-1995; customer service representative for SIRSI Library Automation in Huntsville, 1991-1992; and outreach librarian at the Huntsville Public Library, 1990-1991. She received her B.S. in dietetics from California State University, Long Beach; the MLS from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; and the education specialist degree in instructional technology from the University of West Georgia. Debbie is a member of the American Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries and the Georgia Library Association. In GLA, she served as secretary of the Academic Library Division, 2002, and chaired the Library Day at the Capitol in 2003 and 2004.



### Robin Shader

Robin Shader is deputy director of the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, having been appointed to the position in July 2009. She served as chief of public services at the library from 2008-2009. Prior to that, Robin was Liberty County coordinator at the Live Oak Public Libraries, 2003-2008. Before moving to Georgia, Robin worked as a branch manager and children's librarian at public libraries in Ocean County, N.J., from 1998-2003. She received her B.S. in cinema and photography from Ithaca College, N.Y., and the MLS from Rutgers University. She graduated from the New Jersey Library Association's Emerging Leaders program in 2003 and Leadership Liberty County, Ga., in 2005. In GLA, Robin served on the 2007 COMO Conference Committee, presented "How to Prepare for the Library Management Interview" at the 2008 COMO conference, and in 2009 served as a judge for the Georgia Student Media Festival. She is currently a member of the GOLD/GALILEO User's Group Advisory Committee and a member of numerous professional associations.





## Newest Cobb County branch library wins rave reviews

*"In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity."*

— **Albert Einstein**

*"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations."*

— **Charles Swindoll**

*"Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises."*

— **Demosthenes**

These sayings fairly sum up the reaction when the Cobb County Public Library System heard that the much-loved and very popular Merchants Walk Library was to be sold and slated for demolition by the end of 2009. A search for a new location was begun immediately, with the goal of creating a new home for the East Cobb patrons that was convenient, accessible and modern. A major goal would be to provide a much larger space than the previous cramped quarters and offer an environment that would highlight new technologies such as self-checkout systems and include advanced audiovisual systems.

The Parkaire Landing Shopping Center, a short mile and a half away from Merchants Walk, offered what at first seemed an unlikely venue: an empty former health club with dark black walls, no windows, and basketball lights in the ceiling. However, the size of the space presented the opportunity to realize many of the goals and dreams for the new library. Cobb County Commission

Chairman Sam Olens negotiated a long-term lease on the location for the county, with the vision of enhancing commercial activity and further growth in this area of the county. Papers were signed, and it was full speed ahead with space planning and architectural design.

In order to minimize expenses on the project, Cobb County chose its own in-house resources, utilizing the capable and proven employees of the Property Management Department. Caren Carmichael, design coordinator, and Lee Vaughan, project manager, met with Library Director Helen Poyer and Regional Manager Mike Aiken on a weekly basis to develop an interior design and architectural plan that would fit the needs of the library as described by Merchants Walk Branch Manager Ansie Krige. As plans solidified, John Gross of Moreland Altobelli architectural firm would translate them to blueprint, so that construction could begin. In late August 2009, interior demolition of the old health club commenced.

Throughout the autumn months, design meetings and construction continued on parallel tracks, with the

specter of the wrecking ball for the Merchants Walk branch looming ominously at the end of December. Decisions on paint colors, carpet design, furniture styles and lighting fixtures were made by Director Helen Poyer and Mike Aiken under the expert guidance of Caren Carmichael. Excitement built as the new library grew phase by phase, each visit to the site showing completion of another facet of the grand design. Walls went up, dividing the space into



*A reading area in the East Cobb Library*

recognizable patterns, ceilings were hung, electricity and plumbing installed, windows placed in the former blank walls, columns created. Beautiful cabinetry was produced by the Property Management woodworking shop, including the new circulation desk and display cases for the front lobby/café. The café area itself was designed to provide a place for patrons to relax, perhaps read their newly borrowed book or simply enjoy conversation and a small snack in the library storefront. This space was just one of the unique features of the design, and it has already proven to be very popular with patrons.

From the beginning, the new library was envisioned to contain the latest in technology, a prime feature being the dedicated teen area, in which a wall-mounted high-definition television was placed, to be used by teens for gaming, displays of teen-created poetry and art. In addition, a smaller TV monitor was placed in the front lobby/café, where patrons would be able to view library program schedules or other county information.

The circulation desk itself is designed to take advantage of future library systems such as RFID checkout. Also, a self-checkout station similar to the one already in use at the Central Library was installed. The Community Room and the Children's Program Room were both equipped with built-in touch-screen controls for running HDTV ceiling-mounted video projectors and automatically deployed movie screens, all managed by state-of-the-art A/V receivers and Blu-ray DVD players secured in a separate closet. Community groups wishing to take advantage of this technology would only need to bring their own laptops, plug them in to the system in the Community Room and view their own program on the big screen. As Project Manager Lee Vaughan said, "This library probably has more wiring than the space shuttle."

By mid-December, Lee Vaughan was able to deliver the extremely good news, as the holiday season approached, that the new library would be ready for move-in beginning in early January. The mammoth task of moving the old Merchants Walk collections and furnishings began. Late December through January found the Merchants Walk staff, with the help of library system staff and volunteers, busily filling packing crates full of books for the upcoming transfer. While this was going on, shelving was being disassembled at Merchants Walk, moved and reassembled at the East Cobb branch location. Team effort was again on display as Property



Carmichael



Vaughan

Management, Parks & Recreation and the Sheriff's Office assisted with the move of materials. Merchants Walk branch operations stopped for one full week at the end of January to give staff and volunteers the time to re-shelve the collections. On Jan. 29, Branch Manager Ansie Krige was able to look around her new library and report that the East Cobb branch would be open and ready for business on Feb. 1.

Public response to the new library has been overwhelmingly favorable. "The entire building has been designed to be community-friendly," Krige said, "which is noticeable from the moment one enters the library. The library has been designed to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere that makes a visit to the library a pleasure." Patron interest and enthusiasm for the East Cobb Library are high, and its opening is having an impact throughout the community. Regional Manager Mike Aiken describes the new facility in this way: "Libraries function as a community gathering center today, providing a place for education, entertainment and discussion of neighborhood interests for Cobb County residents and nonresidents alike."

For more information, visit [www.cobbcatt.org](http://www.cobbcatt.org) or call the East Cobb Library at 770-509-2730. ►►

*Mike Aiken and Erika Ruthman contributed to this article.*

## Public library trustee... "What's that?"

by Jim Connor

**W**hat images come to mind when people hear about trustees for the public library?

Trustees come in many forms. Prisoners who earn certain favors and freedoms within the system, bank officers who administer certain financial portfolios, court-appointed guardians, bankruptcy referees and many other possibilities are attached to the term trustee. Well, perhaps some of us have qualified in one of the above categories in our previous lives or wondered ourselves about just who and what we are.

My travels to visit with public library leaders across the country have brought me together with some wonderful people. Some are full of wonder, and others just make me wonder. Unique is an appropriate word for individuals I have been privileged to meet over the past 20 years in working with public library trustees.

One common thread found is the sincere interest in their community and their library. Then things start to break down into values, approach, cultural and historical, personalities and just plain being whoever we are. Some of us like to assert ourselves in guiding the direction of any discussions at board sessions or when dealing with our library director. That's just natural ... right? After all, we do have the best ideas and know

how things should be done. When the others understand what we think is best, they will all agree and we can move on.

Some of us would rather just not get involved for fear of getting someone upset or even angry. It is best for us to observe and not offer ideas or suggestions in order to keep the peace. There are those also who try very hard to stay on the good side of the important people. It makes us anxious to second their motions and always agree with any points they make in discussions. You get the point.

We are just people like everyone else. We have been chosen to provide governance and direction toward the effective development and growth of our library. There are certain laws, policies, procedures and traditions that dictate our actions and hold us accountable to the community we serve.

Every public library trustee accepts specific duties, responsibilities, expectations and limitations that come with the position. How do we learn of these requirements? Why is it important for us to know these things? Getting back to the word "trustee," let's examine what it means to us as public library trustees.

First, it places us in a position of trust. It tells our community we have

accepted responsibility for our public library providing the programs and services needed to sustain its value for years to come. Next, it identifies us as those most responsible for advocating within the community for continued political and financial support for the public library. Then it tells our community that we are willing to listen to their views and needs, as well as helping them understand the position and direction of the library's plan for the future.

As trustees, we should be prepared to seek out and welcome expertise and learning opportunities from qualified library leaders and join peer groups in evaluating our mutual concerns and solutions. The story often told about a board operating in a locked closet could be talking about some of us who decline to meet with other library boards, attend library conferences or accept any educational challenges from the outside world.

With respect, I refer to this practice as "intellectual incest." I urge you all to take an honest look at yourselves, your board and your productivity. Do a structured self-evaluation. It is both fun and enlightening. It is not about you. It is about your library. Your state library team can help you with that. Thanks for your service. ►►

*Jim Connor is a nationally known trainer, consultant and author. He is president of the Nebraska-based Trustee College.*

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## People, Libraries and Agencies **IN THE NEWS**

### **DLG launches Atlanta newspaper archive**

The Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) has announced the availability of a new online resource, The Atlanta Historic Newspapers Archive, at <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/atlnewspapers>.

The Atlanta Historic Newspapers Archive provides online access to 14 newspaper titles published in Atlanta from 1847 to 1922. Consisting of more than 67,000 newspaper pages, the archive provides historical images that are both full-text searchable and can be browsed by date. The site will provide users with a record of Atlanta's history from its origins as an railroad terminus, through the devastation of the Civil War, to its eventual growth into one of the nation's largest cities.

The archive includes the following Atlanta newspaper titles: *Atlanta Daily Examiner* (1857), *Atlanta Daily Herald* (1873-1876), *Atlanta Georgian* (1906-1911), *Atlanta Intelligencer* (1851, 1854-1871), *Atlantian* (1911-1922), *Daily/Georgia Weekly Opinion* (1867-1868), *Gate-City Guardian* (1861), *Georgia Literary and Temperance Crusader* (1860-1861), *New Era* (1869-1872), *Southern Confederacy* (1861-1864), *Southern Miscellany*, and *Upper Georgia Whig* (1847), *Southern World* (1882-1885), *Sunny South* (1875-1907) and *Weekly Constitution* (1869-1882).

The Atlanta Historic Newspapers Archive is a project of the DLG as part of the Georgia HomePLACE initiative. The project is supported with federal LSTA funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through Georgia Public Library Service. ►►

### **Brooks honored for humanitarian efforts**

Mary Ellen Brooks, director emerita of the University of Georgia's Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, received a Governor's Award in the Humanities May 11.

Citing her "indefatigable energy," "amazing degree of knowledge about the history of Georgia and its authors" and calling her "one of our state's unacknowledged leaders in the humanities," Brooks was nominated for the award by Betty Jean Craige, director of the UGA Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, and Nicole Mitchell, director of the University of Georgia Press.

"Without great libraries, researchers cannot be great scholars," Craige said, "and Mary Ellen made Georgia's Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library into a rich repository of rare books, photographs, documents, drawings, letters, papers and manuscripts for all scholars of Georgia's history to use now and in the time to come."



Brooks

Brooks served the last 15 years of her career as director of the Hargrett Library, during which time she acquired 532 manuscript collections and built the library's collection of fine printing and small press books and other works related to the book arts, making it the fifth largest in the country. Brooks supervised the digitization of historical maps of Georgia and the Southeast, among the first projects of its kind in the nation. ►►

### **Macon to host catalogers conference**

Macon will be hosting the 2010 OnLine Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC) conference this fall at the new Macon Marriott City Center. The pre-conference, Name Authority Cooperative Program (NACO) funnel training, will be held Oct. 14; it will be hosted by David Prochazka. The conference proper will be held from Oct. 15-17. Registration for the pre-conference is \$125; for the main conference, it is \$150 (\$100 for MLS students). Registration forms and other information are available at <http://www.olacinc.org/drupal/conference/2010/index.html>. ►►

## Georgia Southern news and notes

Zach S. Henderson Library teamed with Statesboro Regional Library to celebrate National Library Week in April. Events included a free showing of "The Hollywood Librarian" in the regional library's Isabel Sorrier Room on April 15 and a lecture on the history of libraries in Bulloch County by local historian Roger Allen on April 17.

The library has acquired the research papers and recordings compiled by English author Michael Gray during the writing of his book on Georgia blues legend Blind Willie McTell, one of the earliest blues performers to record. McTell lived for many of his formative years in Statesboro, home of Georgia Southern University, and he is famous for his distinctive guitar playing and such classic songs as "Statesboro Blues" and "Broke Down Engine." Mr. Gray published *Hand Me My Travelin' Shoes: In Search of Blind Willie McTell* in England in 2007, and an American edition was released in 2009. »

## Georgia Southwestern State news

The James Earl Carter Library on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University (GSSU) in Americus hosted two events this spring as part of its Events @ the Library program. On March 30, Events @ the Library presented a reading by Jeff Newberry, an English professor and author from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton. GSW faculty, staff and students came out to hear Newberry read poetry from his book, *A Visible Sign*. On April 14, Events @ the Library, along with GSSU's International Student Association, presented "An Asian Celebration Featuring the Nippon Book Collection." The Nippon Books are a collection of 100 books awarded to the library by the Nippon Foundation. The program included presentations on Japan and tea ceremonies, demonstrations on the history of and how to wear kimonos by Chico English and JinYoung Lee, and a calligraphy station where attendees could have their names written in Chinese, Japanese and Korean. »

## Georgia State news and notes

*Library Journal* has added Georgia State University (GSU) librarian Jason Puckett to its highly regarded list of "Movers & Shakers." The March 2010 issue of the magazine recognizes new leaders like Puckett, who will guide libraries through their changing role in the 21st century. Puckett is a tireless promoter of the open source citation manager Zotero and teaches the Georgia State community about this software during instruction sessions that he hosts each semester. Puckett has created

an internationally recognized online guide for using the software on the Georgia State University Library's Web site. Puckett also produces a monthly podcast called "Adventures in Library Instruction" with two colleagues.



Puckett

GSU has announced the following appointments: Amy Harris is now the undergraduate services librarian; Tricia Clayton is now the collection services librarian; Dr. Jill Anderson is the new history librarian; James (Cliff) Landis is the new Web services librarian; Laura Carscaddon is now business librarian; and Dr. Amanda Swygart-Hobaugh is now sociology librarian.

GSU has also partnered with *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* to house *The Atlanta Journal* and *The Atlanta Constitution's* photographic archives, a donation that will add thousands of images to the photographic collection in the GSU Library. »

## Middle Georgia Tech news and notes

The library staff at Middle Georgia Technical College (MGTC) in Warner Robins hosted its first-ever Poetry Day celebration April 28. The celebration involved poetry readings by members of the Georgia Poets Society and a collegewide poetry contest. Members of the Georgia Poetry Society participating in the Poetry Day celebration at MGTC were Ron Self of Columbus and J.C. Reilly of Atlanta. Each poet read several selections of their own work to the crowd of students, faculty and staff.

After the readings, Dr. Dumont Bunn, MGTC Library director, named the winners of the poetry contest, which was open to faculty, staff and students during the month of April, which is National Poetry Month. Entrants were asked to submit free verse and haiku poems. Winners were picked for each poetry type and may be viewed from [www.middlegatech.edu/students/library](http://www.middlegatech.edu/students/library). »

## University of Georgia news and notes

Frances Mayes, author of the best-selling memoirs *Under the Tuscan Sun* and *Bella Tuscany*, has announced the donation of her personal papers to the University of Georgia Libraries. The gift was announced March 30 when Mayes was on campus to give a talk, "Living Under the Tuscan Sun," sponsored by the UGA Libraries to celebrate Mayes' donation.

"Many, many people have enjoyed reading of Frances



Mayes' adventures in Italy, and we are excited to present this opportunity for the university community to hear her personally," said William Gray Potter, the university librarian and associate provost. "More so, we are thrilled that she has trusted us with preserving her papers and look forward to sharing them with her fans and scholarly researchers alike."

A native of Fitzgerald, Ga., Mayes divides her time between Italy and North Carolina. She is also the author of travel memoirs *A Year in the World* and *Bringing Tuscany Home*; *Swan*, a novel; *The Discovery of Poetry*, a text for readers; and five books of poetry. ►►

## University of West Georgia news, notes

Processing of the papers of Thomas B. Murphy (1924-2007) in the University of West Georgia's Ingram Library's Special Collections has been completed. With the work of four graduate assistants from the university's public history program, the collection has been arranged into 245 boxes or 121 linear feet of files from the late House speaker's office.

According to Head of Special Collections Suzanne Durham, the project was a priority in light of the re-

creation of Speaker Murphy's office, the focal point of the university's \$8 million library renovation funded by the Georgia Legislature in 2008 in honor of Murphy's service. "We knew we needed to catalog this material to meet the needs of an exhibit curator," Durham said. "Not only is there information in these files that would help inform the exhibit, but there are photographs and pieces of paper that will be replicated for display in the exhibit." The construction project will be completed in 2011.



Murphy

Murphy served in the Georgia House from 1961-2003, and he was speaker of the Georgia House from 1973-2003. Murphy donated his papers and the contents of his state Capitol office to the university when he left office. Under the terms of the donation, the university agreed to re-create his office on its campus. The collection, spanning the years 1967 to 2003, contains material from Murphy's time as speaker as well as some material that predates his speakership. The finding aid for the collection is available in PDF format at <http://libguides.westga.edu/content.php?pid=33218&sid=272238>. For information, contact Suzanne Durham at [sdurham@westga.edu](mailto:sdurham@westga.edu). ►►

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## Valdosta State news and notes

Jeffrey W. Gallant has joined the faculty of the Valdosta State University Odum Library as an instructor of library science and reference librarian. ►►

## Mobile library brings broadband access

Thanks to a \$258,400 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries (CVL) will launch a high-tech mobile library in early 2011, bringing free broadband technology to residents of three rural counties. "This mobile library will make it possible to take library services to where they are needed most," said Abbie Dillard, chair, Chattahoochee Valley Libraries board of trustees. "Those most challenged by the digital divide will receive access to services necessary for the improvement of their lives."

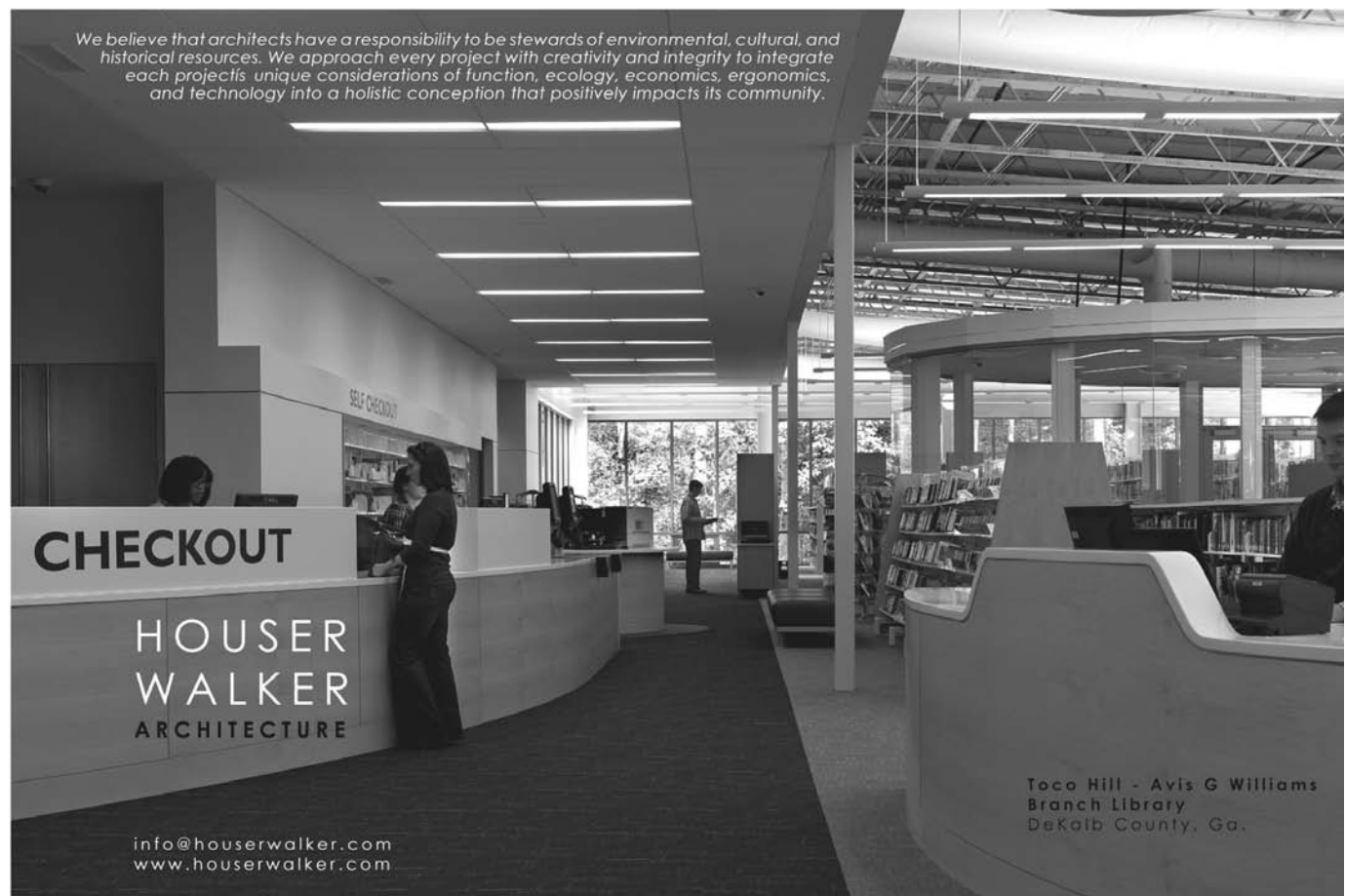
CVL is an eight-branch system that serves four counties — Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Marion and Stewart. Though many residents already have easy access to a neighborhood branch, there are those with limited public transportation, which makes it difficult to get to the libraries. "The number one need for Marion County is

transportation," says Marion County Commissioner Kevin Brown. "Having a mobile library that can travel to outlying areas will serve a great need in those communities and reach a far greater number of children and teens. The library is one of our greatest resources, and it is sad that so many members of our community are unable to enjoy the services the library provides because of their lack of transportation."

The new mobile library will provide all the amenities found in the traditional libraries, including six computers that will connect to the Internet via satellite. It will be stationed deeper in the rural communities for longer periods of time than a traditional bookmobile and will look and feel similar to a library branch. ►►

## Flint River Regional news and notes

Marilyn Smith, branch manager of the Monroe County Library, a member of the Flint River Regional Library System, announced that Wynter Bishop, library assistant, has been awarded a Laura Bush Scholarship. She has been accepted for the Valdosta State online MLS program. ►►



## Off the SHELF

The Georgia Library Quarterly reviews books on aspects of life in Georgia and the South, including history, literature, politics, education and genealogy. Materials written by Southern authors or published by regional publishers may also be considered, as well as those on libraries and librarianship.

**Brijin Boddy**, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, [bboddy@cvrls.net](mailto:bboddy@cvrls.net)

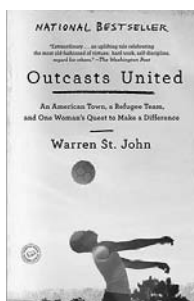
**Karen Odom**, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Houston County Public Libraries, [kodom@houpl.org](mailto:kodom@houpl.org)

See more Off the Shelf reviews at [http://glq.georgialibraries.org/glq\\_bookreviews.htm](http://glq.georgialibraries.org/glq_bookreviews.htm)

### FICTION

**Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference** by Warren St. John

(Spiegel & Grau, 2009; ISBN 978-0-385-52203-8, \$24.95.)



Expanding upon a *New York Times* report, author Warren St. John writes a compelling story of a woman coach, her soccer team comprised of refugee boys, and the impact they had on a small Southern town. Not only the tale of how one person can make a difference, it highlights the struggles of both immigrants and native residents as they adjust and adapt to each other.

*Outcasts United* revolves around the coach, Luma Mufleh, a young Jordanian woman educated and living in the United States. Driving around her neighborhood, she stumbles upon a group of boys playing soccer in a parking lot. These boys are refugees, mostly from African countries but also Iraq, Bosnia and Afghanistan, who along with their families have been re-settled in Clarkston, Ga. Coach Luma single-handedly and with little support creates a soccer team for them known as the "Fugees" (short for refugees.) Clarkston, a small town about 13 miles east of Atlanta is remarkable only for being a "homogenous, white, Southern town." Unprepared to receive and re-settle numerous ethnic

groups, the residents are divided between those resistant to these changes, including the mayor himself, and those who recognize that change is inevitable.

The book veers back and forth between the personal struggles of coach Luma and her team, the boys' difficulties within a new environment, the immigrant experience for the boys' families, and the town of Clarkston as it adjusts to a new geography of immigrant residents. With all this, the reading is a bit disjointed at times. But the story is moving and empathetic. The author has produced a book where the reader roots for the Fugees from start to finish. It is recommended for both young adults and adult readers. ►►

— Reviewed by **Amy Harris**  
Undergraduate Services Librarian  
Georgia State University

### NONFICTION

**Regeneration! A Journal of Creative Writing** by the Regeneration Writers of Mercer University's College of Continuing & Professional Studies (The Regeneration Writers Press [Macon, Ga.], 2009; \$15.95)

The Regeneration Writers all took what one of them called "a long



detour" before recognizing themselves as lifelong learners who needed to return to formal education. Some characterize them as nontraditional students and others as adult working students, but they know each other as individuals with names and stories to tell.

What started as classroom writing assignments evolved into far more — a calling for both students and faculty to write with honesty about their doubts and faith, their despair and triumph, their failings and successes, all of which led to a regeneration of purpose in each of their lives. Coming from careers as varied as postal service, marketing, trade skills and child care, these authors have subjected their work to intense scrutiny with an eye for writing skills, integrity and candor.

*Regeneration! A Journal of Creative Writing* invites the reader to engagement and reflection through short stories, poems, interviews, essays, photography and artwork collected around themes — "The Road to Mercer," by faculty, staff and students; "Taking Life," stirring thoughts on murder, lynching, innocence, prisons and forgiveness; "Conversation on Race," including poetry, reflections, stories and an interview; "This Is My Story," ranging from hilarity to deadly serious; "A Higher Power," a mix of humor, grim reality, faith and hope; "The Military," written from the perspective of all military family members; "Rhyme, Reason, and/or Rhythm," a section of brief pieces, several authored by guest writers; and "Essays," with attention given to international history and literature, peace and citizenship, abolition of slavery and environmental sustainability, student athletics and welfare.

This 271-page volume is a testament to the Regeneration Writers who wanted to write, and write well, and in the process mastered editing, arranging, illustrating and publishing. An effort by this body to study literary journals of other nontraditional undergraduate programs located none, so this seems to be a pioneer effort. The writings bear the depth of experience gained by "taking a detour" in life before returning to school.

The volume may be approached in several ways. Certainly, the themes could assist a classroom of students or a single reader in focusing on a particular subject for

introspection and further writing. Likewise, the writings may be read and studied by format. A number of the authors have multiple writings, and it is revealing to read each one's material in one sitting, thus getting to know them as individuals and by writing style. Sociology classes might give attention to the wide range of these writers and their experiences, and theology classes could study the authors' expressions of spirituality and religious experience.

Nontraditional students may well be motivated by the rich diversity of these writings to attempt a similar project in their own college and university programs. Indeed, this project was born out of a request by the students themselves for additional creative writing classes and mentoring to improve their skills. This publication gives evidence to those in other creative writing programs of the unexpected results that come through matching budding writing skills with the life experience of working adults.

Though the primary writers are identified with biographical notes and a few writers are noted by job titles, it would have been useful to have all authors identified by relation to the university or by profession, preferably under the title of each work instead of at the end. Likewise, the use of artwork and photography would have been far more meaningful if these creative works had been labeled and connected more clearly with the authors and their writings. An index by author/artist/photographer name with page numbers would have added significantly to the usefulness of the journal.

These students and a devoted faculty mentor have produced a work that is worthy of their efforts. As with many authors, they will see things they wish they had noticed and changed before publication, but they have given voice to a population of students who have not been heard so often. This publication invites others to follow, to gain a better understanding of who they are through writing, to claim their doubts and fears, to grow. ►►

— Reviewed by **Susan G. Broome**  
Associate Director for Technical Services  
and Associate Professor, Division of Library Services  
Mercer University Tarver Library

<http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/infolit.html>

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